

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday May 21st 2015 at The White House, Brampton.

Present

Phyl Rouston	Chairman
Heather Edwards	Membership Secretary
Carol Dougherty	
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Martin Railton	Research
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Richard Stevens	Secretary

Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

1/5/15 Matters arising

None

2/5/15 Membership

Heather said that there were currently 68 paid up members, including 38 individual & 15 joint memberships.

3/5/15 Treasurer's Report

Mike presented a copy of the accounts for the period 19th February to 21st May, showing a positive balance of £776.45. This included two cheques not yet presented.

4/2/15 Research

Martin R said that an email had been received from Paul Frodsham regarding the Brackenber post excavation funding. It was thought that this should be sufficient to satisfy the CWAAS Research & Grants Committee. Richard had forwarded the message intact to Harry Hawkins & he had agreed to make the contents known to the Committee. Richard said that Harry was about to leave for a 4 week trip, so we might have to wait a few more weeks but he now expected the grant to be agreed in full, since the only real objection had been to costs of publication. Richard explained that the letter of support from Richard Newman was still outstanding & Martin agreed to follow this up, if necessary by approaching an alternative referee. **(Martin R)**

Martin also mentioned the possibility of investigating Musgrave Church Field as a follow up to the talks at the AGM and the recent evening visit.

5/5/15 Appleby Town Project

Martin R said that he had been spending time at the archive centre in Kendal and had copied maps and other documents relating to the various periods of Appleby's history that the project would address. Map data had been combined with GIS data such that various overlays were available on the basic map of the town. Martin had formulated the basic approach for each part of the project and these would be explained at the launch meeting in June.

He went on to explain that of particular interest was the Roman camp at Castrigg. He had looked at air photos which clearly showed the outline of the camp (as well as a possible signal station!) and it seemed to be a prime site on which to carry out some geophysics. This would form the basis of the work during the Festival of Archaeology most likely on 18/19th July. Permission has

been granted by the landowner and he is enthusiastic.

Martin remarked that his other avenue of investigation was open spaces in Appleby. Unfortunately these were few and far between but he thought that the site of the original medieval school, which according to one of the maps consulted, is adjacent to Centre 67 on the playing field. Eden District Council and Appleby Town Council have been approached and have no objection to a survey taking place, providing it happens before the goal nets are replaced on 18th July. All surveys would have to be size restricted to ensure that all those attending would be able to take part in practical work.

The County's Senior Historic Environment Officer, Mark Brennand, is also keen on the multiple test pit idea but this aspect will require more complex organisation, so will take place later in the project.

The first field walk of the season took place in poor weather but was very productive, with a lot of medieval pottery, including 2 large jug handles, discovered in the field just outside the town beyond Castle Bank. The area could well contain evidence of occupation because the town was thought to be much larger during the medieval period than it is now.

Phyl had written to the Town Council and to the A in W Society. The Town Council were very enthusiastic and had suggested Andy Connell, the ex-mayor, to act as liaison with the Group. Unfortunately & also surprisingly, no response had been received from the A in W Society & it was agreed that we should not feel obliged to follow this up. We did however expect that individual members of the Society would become involved.

The launch meeting was discussed and it was decided that a short reminder would be combined with an email shot requesting confirmation of Binchester group numbers in early June. The newsletter, which would also carry a reminder, would probably be with members around 11th June, as near the date of 16th June as possible. The suggestion was made that the launch meeting could consist of Martin R giving a talk of 30-40 minutes, followed by coffee, then by a pot washing session with the artifacts from the recent field walking day, possibly with the participation of Barbara Blenkinship to help with identification. It was agreed that Martin R could buy some washing up bowls & toothbrushes.

6/5/15 Correspondence

Richard had received a subscription reminder from the CLHF and this had been paid. Apparently no regular reminder had been received earlier in the year, so this would now be added to the diary items for January.

Richard had been in correspondence with Paul Frodsham & Harry Hawkins regarding the Brackenber post excavation funding, see item 4/2/15 above.

Phyl and Richard had received a priced booklist from a non-member who wished to dispose of some 250 books, an email offering to forward the list had been sent round to members and 6 had asked for a copy.

Finally, Richard had received an email from the secretary of a local society in Maulds Meaburn who was looking for a speaker on the history of their village. She had been put in contact with Harry Hawkins.

Martin J presented his idea for keeping track of yearly admin items and everyone thought this very useful - adopted. **(Post meeting note: Could this be amended to include other regular matters? See above viz. Library poster update, CLHF subscription etc. If so, it could be updateable & included on Google Drive, owner Martin J and read only everyone else.)**

7/5/15 Programme

Summer programme:

1. The visit to Musgrave had been very successful with 18 members attending.
2. The possible visit to Carlisle Cathedral would not be taking place.
3. No visit to Ravenglass was possible – excavation backfilled!
4. Members will be sent an e mail w/c 25/5/15 with details of the Binchester visit on June 20th asking them to confirm bookings and to indicate their travel arrangements. Phyl will then co-ordinate the travel arrangements and advise members individually. **(Phyl, Richard)**

Winter programme:

There were 4 slots remaining unfilled.

1. **Carol** would approach both the speaker on Lime Kilns and Fiona Edmunds on Irish Sea Monasticism for March/April next year
2. **Martin R** would try to coerce someone from W-A Archaeology to speak on the Botchergate excavations for December
3. **Richard** had been in touch with John Zant from OAN on the A66 dualling between Greta Bridge and Scotch Corner in N. Yorkshire & would try to arrange him for October.

Two possible workshops were considered since they were thought to be of too specific interest for general talks: Firstly the friend of Harry Hawkins who specialises in cuneiform script and secondly Carol's tutor, or possibly Carol herself, on reading medieval scripts and documents. It was suggested that the latter might be of interest to non-members (eg. A in W Society members) and could therefore be opened up and a fee charged. **(Carol, Richard)**

8/5/15 AOB

Martin J agreed to send a membership renewal form to Heather.

Library notice in Penrith found to be out of date. Martin J to update and copies then sent to Penrith Appleby and Kirby Stephen. **(Martin J, Heather, Phyl, Carol)**

Martin J said he would be starting the Summer newsletter on or about 1st June.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

Date and time of next meeting 7.30pm on Thursday August 20th at No. 5 the White House, Appleby.